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SENATE

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PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF A GERMAN EMBASSY BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2439]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 2439) to provide funds for the acquisition and maintenance of a German Embassy by the Federal Republic of Germany, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, with amendments, and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

AMENDMENTS

1. Strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That in order to enable the Federal Republic of Germany to acquire and maintain a German Embassy in the District of Columbia, the Secretary of the Treasury be, and is hereby authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000 to the Federal Republic of Germany.

2. Amend the title to read as follows:

For the relief of the Federal Republic of Germany.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed legislation, as amended, is to appropriate the sum of \$300,000 for the construction of a new embassy in the city of Washington, D. C., to be occupied by the Federal Republic of Germany.

STATEMENT

A great many years ago the German Government acquired property located at 1439 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, D. C. This property was used by it to house the German Embassy in Washington under the Weimar Republic and under the Third Reich. It was vacated by the German Republic upon the entrance of the United States into World War II and remained unoccupied thereafter for several years. Along with other properties of the German Government and German nationals, it was seized by the Alien Property Custodian. In the spring of 1951 some 6 years after the end of hostilities between this country and Germany and only a few months before diplomatic relations were resumed between this country and the Federal Republic of Germany, the property was sold by the Alien Property Custodian, and the money realized from such sale went into the general funds of the Alien Property Custodian. This bill would make an award equivalent to the sum realized from the sale of the old property as a contribution toward the acquisition and maintenance of a new German Embassy.

The committee believes that this award contained in the bill is required as a matter of fair dealing and good faith to the Federal Republic of Germany for the acquisition of its former property seized by the Alien Property Custodian. For some years, Western Germany has been under the military occupation of Great Britain, France, and the United States. This occupation has not been that of the conqueror over the conquered. Instead, it has represented an honest and far-sighted attempt to restore the self-respect of the German people, to revitalize the German economy, and to provide the conditions under which the German people themselves might set up and maintain a Federal Republic of their own. The alienation of the German Embassy is more than a taking and a sale of a piece of material property. It is the destruction of a symbol which citizens of the German Republic hold dear. The committee is of the opinion that it is fitting and proper that a new building in the city of Washington housing the Embassy of the new German Republic should symbolize the ties between the two countries. Hundreds of thousands of our best citizens are of German descent, and to the rich fabric of American culture the Germans have made substantial contributions.

The act of seizure and sale, if left uncorrected, is out of step with our whole German program. Germany was a totalitarian state for only a brief span in its history, and that phase passed with the end of World War II. The great danger to our free institutions lies not in Germany, but in the great Russian Empire to the east. Against such a danger we are concerned to organize a West European Army which is under the joint control of the great democracy of West Europe. We have already taken positive steps toward the rearmament of Germany, and we expect Germany to furnish a substantial contribution to this international army. If in the future there is to be armed conflict between the democracies of the west and the communism of the east, Germany will become to us a fighting frontier. We need the good will of a German Republic which will keep the morale of its people high.

In World War II Japan and Germany were equally our enemies, and yet the Japanese Embassy has not been subjected to confiscation. On the contrary, the treaty of peace which the United States has just concluded with Japan underwrites the security which has been accorded to it. The treaty of peace which is now being worked out between Germany and the United States provides that Germany is to enjoy concessions which are identical with, or at least equivalent to, those enjoyed by Japan. If we are to play no favorites, we must accord to Germany a privilege which we have already extended to Japan.

The committee therefore recommends favorable consideration of this bill, as amended, as a feature not only of international good will but also demanded by justice and fair dealing.



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